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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Marketing Service
Washington, D. C.

2 issue

Form electricity report

February 18, 1955

USE OF ELECTRICITY ON UNITED STATES FARMS CONTINUES TO EXPAND

United States farmers continued to increase their use of electricity during the year ending in July 1954. This resulted in higher average monthly electric bills paid by farmers but a lower average cost per kilowatt hour, according to an annual survey made by the Agricultural Marketing Service.

According to this survey, which includes reports from over 22,000 farmers throughout the United States, farmers paid an average of 2.61 cents per kilowatt hour for electricity in July 1954 compared with 2.77 cents in July 1953 and with the 1947-52 July average of 3.03 cents. All regions showed a decline in average cost per kilowatt except the Northeast region where the majority of farms have had electricity for many years, and in the Pacific States where the use of electricity has reached a point where an increase in kilowatts used does not always offset mark-ups in the basic rate structure. The greatest declines occurred in the West North Central and West South Central regions. The average cost per kilowatt hour in these two West Central regions, at 3.4 cents, was still the highest in the United States. The lowest cost per kilowatt hour used was paid by farmers in the Pacific States. The Middle Atlantic, East South Central, and Mountain regions reported average costs per kilowatt hour below the United States average. In some areas the basic rate per given amount was higher than a year earlier but generally this was offset by greater consumption of electricity on farms resulting in lower average cost per kilowatt hour used.

Reporting farmers paid an average electric bill of \$9.45 in July 1954. This was 65 cents above \$8.80 in July a year earlier and more than a third higher than the 6-year July average of \$6.83. The highest average monthly electric bill was paid by farmers in the Pacific States, while the lowest was in the East South Central area.

For the most part, those States and regions which had the greatest consumption of electricity per farm also had the lowest cost per kilowatt hour while those with low electricity consumption had the highest cost. As a result of these two counteracting factors, the average monthly bill paid by farmers for electricity tended to vary less between regions than either the kilowatt hours used or the average cost per kilowatt hour. (See table.)

The average number of kilowatt hours used per United States farm in July 1954 was 363. This compares with 317 in July the previous year and with the 1947-52 July average of 227 kilowatt hour. The average number of kilowatts used per farm varied from 1,300 in the Pacific Coast States, where electricity is used to pump water for irrigation purposes, to 205 in the West South Central Region. The increase in the use of electricity on farms has been fairly consistent over most parts of the United States during the past few years. Close correlation between the number of years a farm has had electricity and the amount of electricity used on that farm is a factor in this increase.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

KILOWATT HOURS USED, AVERAGE COST PER KILOWATT-HOUR, AND
AVERAGE MONTHLY BILL BY REGIONS 1/

	July 1947-52 Average				July 1953				July 1954		
Regions:	Kwh. : used : per : farm :	Av. : cost : per : kwh. :	Average : monthly : bill : Ct. : Dol. :		Kwh. : used : per : farm :	Av. : cost : per : kwh. :	Average : monthly : bill : Ct. : Dol. :		Kwh. : used : per : farm :	Av. : cost : per : kwh. :	Average : monthly : bill : Ct. : Dol. :
N. Eng. :	274	3.1	8.36	:	315	2.9	9.30	:	325	3.0	9.70
M. Atl. :	338	2.6	8.72	:	445	2.5	11.00	:	460	2.4	11.10
E. N. C. :	271	3.0	8.11	:	360	2.8	9.90	:	400	2.7	10.70
W. N. C. :	194	4.0	7.78	:	260	3.7	9.80	:	295	3.4	10.00
S. Atl. :	168	3.2	5.30	:	245	2.8	6.90	:	275	2.7	7.30
E. S. C. :	151	3.1	4.56	:	220	2.6	5.70	:	240	2.5	6.00
W. S. C. :	125	4.2	5.24	:	170	3.8	6.50	:	205	3.4	7.00
Mount. :	323	2.5	8.04	:	410	2.5	10.10	:	480	2.4	11.60
Pacific:	525	1.7	9.16	:	1,050	1.8	18.90	:	1,300	1.8	23.80
U.S. :	227	3.03	6.83	:	317	2.77	8.80	:	363	2.61	9.45

1/The survey made in July and August requested data based on "last bill". This was generally a bill for a period ending in last June, July, or early August.